



Dr. Sara Cody, SCC health officer and public health director (left), talks during Thursday's news conference alongside an ASL translator (right).

Variants versus vaccines

Santa Clara County public health officials warn of a possible surge in cases of COVID-19 variants

By Bryanna Bartlett
NEWS EDITOR

An increase in cases of coronavirus variants in Santa Clara County might outpace the county's vaccine supply, health officials said in a Thursday news conference. "The numbers [of COVID-19 variants] are beginning to pick up and right now we're in a race between the variants and the vaccine," said Dr. Sara Cody, Santa Clara County health officer and public health director.

As of March 27, there have been three confirmed cases of the variant first identified in South Africa, one case of the variant first identified in Japan and Brazil, and more than 1,000 cases of the variant first identified in Los Angeles County, according to a Thursday Santa Clara County Public Health Department news release.

Cody said while every variant circulating is concerning, another variant first identified in the United Kingdom is much more infectious. There have been 92 confirmed cases in the county as of March 27.

"We're back in a bit of a precarious place as far as our collective ability to curb this pandemic,"

she said during the conference. Jonathan Rosas, a San Jose State business administration and entrepreneurship junior, said the rise in cases of COVID-19 variants in the county is scary. "It just shows clear evidence that the virus will not and hasn't gone away," Rosas said in a text. "It will always be around and we need to be safe and cautious still."

Vaccine updates

Dr. Martin Fenstersheib, the county's COVID-19 testing officer, said about 30% of residents that are vaccine eligible and 16 and older have been vaccinated with at least one dose while 20% have completed the vaccine series.

"Protect yourself because we do not want the variants to cause a problem with people that have not yet been vaccinated or even develop additional variants," Fenstersheib said during the news conference. "The more that the virus is allowed to replicate, the more chance there is for additional muted mutations and additional variants."

California expanded vaccine eligibility Thursday, allowing anyone over the age

of 50 to receive the vaccine. Forensic science freshman Megan Ross said the county needs to work to make the vaccine more accessible which includes creating more vaccination sites and opening vaccine eligibility.

“It just shows clear evidence that the virus will not and hasn’t gone away. It will always be around and we need to be safe and cautious still.”

Jonathan Rosas
business administration
entrepreneurship junior

"Contra Costa County just made it so anyone over the age of 16 can get the vaccine and I think [Santa Clara County] should do that too," Ross said in a text. "Opening up to orange tier with 75% of the county unvaccinated was pretty stupid."

Contra Costa County is



SCREENSHOT BY BRYANNA BARTLETT

IN BRIEF

■ Cases of COVID-19 variants first identified in the United Kingdom, South Africa, Los Angeles County, and Japan and Brazil are increasing in Santa Clara County.

■ The county will receive 71,900 vaccination doses this week, which is 13,900 more than last week.

■ Public health officials urge safety protocols even if certain activities are allowed under state tier guidelines.

currently in the red tier and opened vaccine eligibility to residents 16 and older on March 30, according to a March 30 Contra Costa County Health Services news release.

Fenstersheib said vaccine supply and allocation have been lower than the number of vaccine eligible residents for weeks but Santa Clara County expects an increase of vaccines in April and May.

Fenstersheib said the county will receive 71,900 doses this week, 13,900 more than last week.

There have been 12 new deaths and 124 new confirmed COVID-19 cases within the last week, totaling 115,057 cases in Santa Clara County as of Monday, according to the county's COVID-19 cases dashboard.

Cody said there has been a

consistent decline in cases since January and while the numbers have flattened, there's indication that case rates may spike.

"We're about where we were last October . . . starting early November our case rates started to tick up quite precipitously," Cody said.

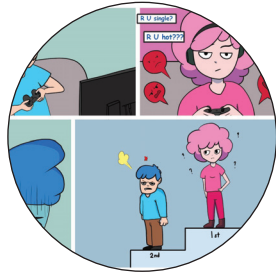
Ross said she's worried the number of cases will continue to rise.

"I'm really hoping to go back in person next year for school but if this trend continues I'm worried we won't be able to," Ross said.

Caution against going out

Cody said county residents need to continue practicing safety protocols, refrain from indoor gatherings, get vaccinated when eligible and limit traveling unless absolutely necessary,

A&E



Women not given safe space in gaming community

Page 2

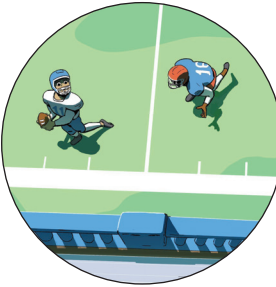
Opinion



Influencers and celebrities only care about your money

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Sports



Athletes discuss what it's like playing without fans

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otherwise, there will be another surge.

"It's spring. It's a beautiful day. We all have cabin fever. We all want to get out," Cody said. "We all want to get back to our lives but we can't do that quite yet."

She also urged residents to quarantine for 14 days after returning from any traveling outside the county.

"Hold on for a little bit longer," Cody said. "Even if [certain activities are] allowed under the state rules, don't do it. It's not safe."

Follow Bryanna on Twitter | @brybartlett



ABOUT

The Spartan Daily prides itself on being the San Jose State community's top news source. New issues are published every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout the academic year and online content updated daily.

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YOGA



SJSU.EDU/garden

ANALYSIS

Sexism continues among gamers

By **Giorgina Laurel**
STAFF WRITER

There has been a sharp rise in video game popularity and streaming, but sexism toward women in the gaming community is not addressed enough among students.

“Personally, I like it more when female characters have more armor,” said Crystal Doan, a San Jose State kinesiology junior in a Zoom interview. “Because I think it looks really cool. Dudes look cool in armor, so why can’t girls also look cool in armor.”

There tends to be a hypersexualization of female characters within video games themselves, whether it’s the character’s revealing clothing or their exaggerated physiques.

For example, a character whose design has been oversexualized is Chun-Li from the combat game Street Fighter.

Not only is her clothing noticeably tight, but even her body proportions contribute to the sexualization of her character. She has extremely large breasts and very thick thighs, features that are often unrealistic and serve no purpose to the game.

However Chun-Li isn’t the only character with this issue.

Similar to Street Fighter, the game Mortal Kombat has a character named Kitana who wears non-protective clothing for the sake of looking sexy.

While she’s wearing clothing that covers more of her body in the newest version, Mortal Kombat 11, previous iterations show her in a bikini and

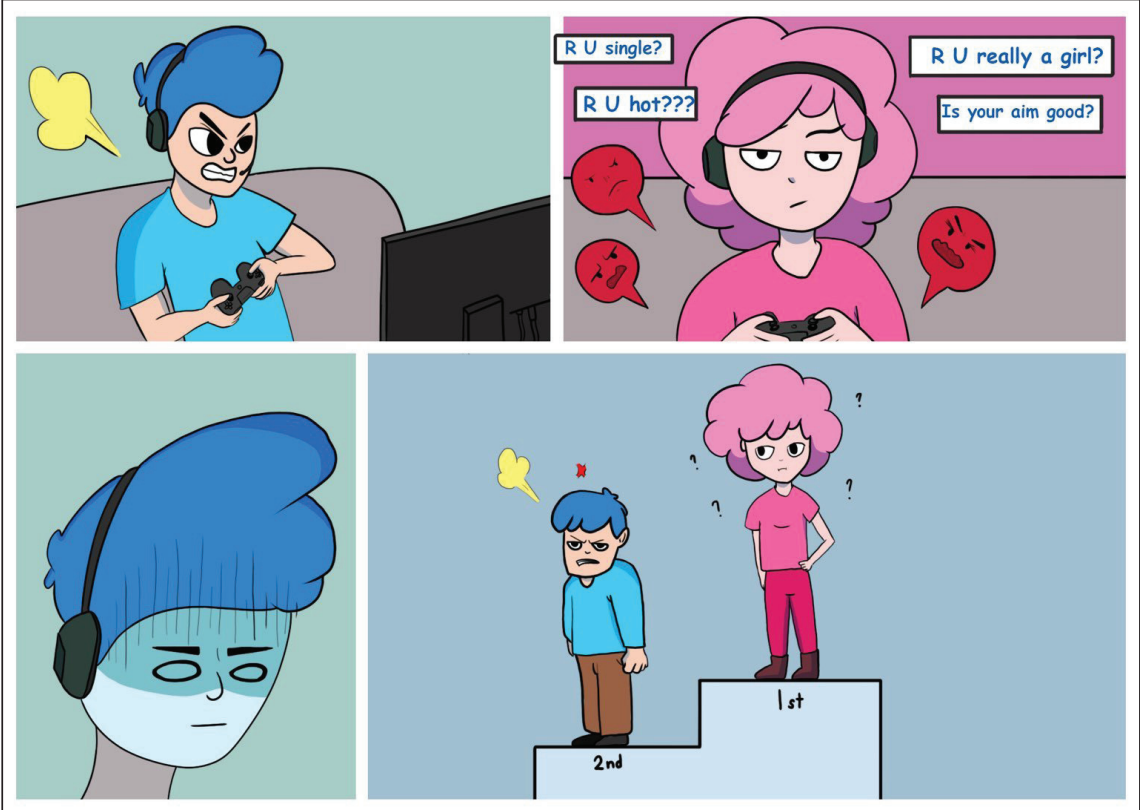


ILLUSTRATION BY HANZ PACHECO

thigh-high boots that expose her cleavage and thighs that don’t contribute to protecting her in battle.

Both Kitana and Chun-Li are often found on online lists rating their attractiveness similar to one created by LevelSkip, a website created by gamers to share information and in-depth content. The website has a list showcasing 50 of the “hottest female video game characters.”

Not only are female video game characters sexualized, they’re usually pushed into supporting roles, such as a healer, whose special ability helps regenerate a player’s health. It’s very uncommon to see the most powerful character in the game be female.

“What I’ve seen is the man is the protagonist and they have a female sidekick. I’ve seen that a lot, it kind of plays on to the trope of the woman having to be the support, just supporting that strong male lead.”

Melody Shepard
Pictorial art junior
SJSU Esports Club member

Melody Shepard, a pictorial art junior and SJSU Esports Club member, said she feels female characters and female gamers are expected to play a secondary role.

“What I’ve seen is the man is the protagonist and they have a female sidekick,” Shepard said. “I’ve seen that a lot, it kind of plays on to the trope of the woman having to be the support, just supporting that strong male lead.”

Alongside this expectation, some male gamers are more degrading toward women gamers just because they identify as such.

Sandy Cai, a kinesiology senior and Spartan Gaming president, said she wants to stream her gameplay

but hasn’t because of the misogynistic sentiments hurled at female streamers.

“Sometimes there’s the sarcastically [“nice person”] who is just like, ‘oh, oh, you’re playing with me? Oh, I bet she wants support, right? Because you’re a girl,’ “Cai said in a Zoom call. “And she’s like, ‘No I play another position. I don’t want to play support. I don’t have to play support.’”

To automatically assume just because someone is female, they’d want to play a supporting character is sexist and misogynistic.

There are also common, derogatory phrases said toward female gamers during play including the term “dishwasher,” telling them to “go back to the kitchen” or even simply assuming just because they’re women they aren’t as skilled.

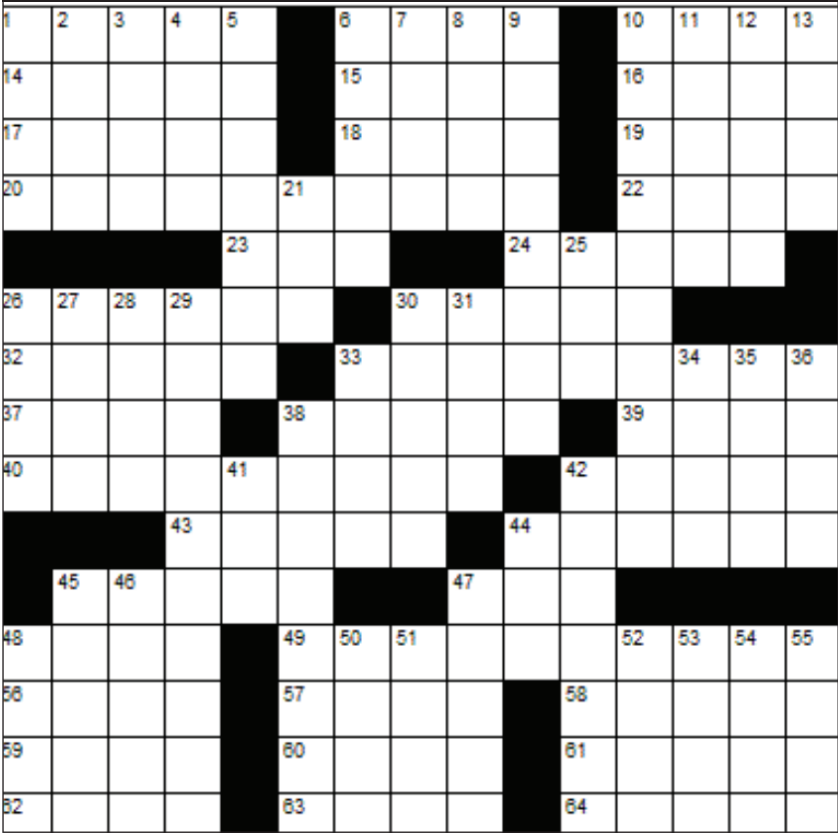
This type of toxicity is often shrugged off as just part of the game, but the gaming communication, whether it’s text chat or voice chat, is intended to enhance gameplay and not encourage sexism. However, it seems like women gamers tend to receive a lot of this misogyny.

Although representation has improved within video games, the community still has a lot of work to do in furthering respect for women gamers.

Follow Giorgina on Twitter | @ItsGiorgina

CLASSIFIEDS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1. A Biblical measure
- 6. Smack
- 10. Low in pitch
- 14. Rink
- 15. Falafel bread
- 16. Sexual assault
- 17. Respond
- 18. Smell
- 19. Diva’s solo
- 20. A type of infantry
- 22. Charged particles
- 23. Snake-like fish
- 24. Nursemaid
- 26. Surpassingly good
- 30. Front parts of human legs
- 32. Unlocks
- 33. Basketball players
- 37. Not short
- 38. Noblemen
- 39. Curved molding
- 40. Entwined
- 42. _____ and groom
- 43. 60s dancers
- 44. Dark purple plum
- 45. Dweeb
- 47. Dip lightly
- 48. Froth

- 49. Deplorable
- 56. Wash
- 57. Again
- 58. Eskimo
- 59. Biblical garden
- 60. Nothing (British)
- 61. Stripes
- 62. A covered garden walk
- 63. Bronzes
- 64. Excellence

DOWN

- 1. Grumble
- 2. Component of urine
- 3. Grizzly
- 4. Ancient Peruvian
- 5. Shreds
- 6. Thread holder
- 7. Adriatic resort
- 8. At the peak of
- 9. Whitish edible roots
- 10. Cogitate
- 11. Moses’ brother
- 12. Barbed
- 13. Oceans
- 21. Confederate soldier
- 25. Autonomic nervous system
- 26. Only
- 27. Atop
- 28. Confined
- 29. Betrothal
- 30. Open skin infections
- 31. Grasp
- 33. Angel’s headwear
- 34. Auspices
- 35. Start over
- 36. Observed
- 38. Egg-shaped vegetable
- 41. Neither _____
- 42. Christening
- 44. One of the tribes of Israel
- 45. Sycophant
- 46. Beckons
- 47. Dings
- 48. Bend
- 50. Dwarf buffalo
- 51. Cut
- 52. Initial wager
- 53. Prickle
- 54. 53 in Roman numerals
- 55. French for “State”

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

		7						2
	2				4			6
	9	4		1			3	
			8	2				3
		6				5		
5				7	3			
	7			6		8	5	
1			4				9	
9						3		

SOLUTIONS

3/25/2021

G	U	L	P		I	D	A	H	O		C	L	U	E
A	R	I	A		M	O	V	E	R		H	E	L	M
S	E	E	N		P	R	E	F	E	R	E	N	C	E
H	A	U	T	B	O	Y		T	O	A	S	T	E	R
			S	I	S						S	T	O	R
P	E	N	U	L	T	I	M	A	T	E				
A	B	O	I	L		R	A	B	I	D		S	O	S
T	R	O	T		G	A	L	A	S		T	A	X	I
E	O	N		I	O	T	A	S		S	I	R	E	N
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D	A	M	A	N			V	I	M					
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M	E	D	I	C	A	T	I	O	N		U	S	E	S
U	N	D	O		T	A	R	O	T		S	E	E	K
R	A	Y	S		S	T	E	M	S		E	R	R	S

7	4	2	3	6	8	5	9	1
8	9	1	7	5	2	3	4	6
3	5	6	4	9	1	8	2	7
2	8	4	5	7	6	1	3	9
6	1	7	8	3	9	2	5	4
5	3	9	1	2	4	7	6	8
9	6	8	2	1	5	4	7	3
4	2	3	6	8	7	9	1	5
1	7	5	9	4	3	6	8	2

JOKIN’ AROUND

Why didn’t the skeleton go to the dance?

He had no body to dance with.

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Fans gullible to celebrity scams



Jacqueline Vela
STAFF WRITER

I was a typical fangirl when I was younger. From various singers to YouTubers, I idolized them all.

It was an unhealthy and embarrassing time in my life, especially because I spent hundreds of dollars on low-quality merchandise and collaborations.

Looking back at my preteen financial decisions, I can see how I was wrapped up in the illusion of celebrities’ and influencers’ luxurious lives. I was too obsessed with the glitz and glam to realize I was getting scammed.

YouTubers including David Dobrik and Jake Paul are known for their outrageous stunts and pranks. A more recent project Dobrik launched was “The Hundred Thousand Dollar Puzzle.”

The puzzle was announced on Dobrik’s social media and was sold online. It quickly gained traction because of how exclusive and unconventional it was.

“Launched Dec. 10, The Hundred Thousand Dollar Puzzle promises that anyone who purchases it will win some amount of cash, with prizes ranging from a single humble quarter to a \$100,000 jackpot,” according

to a Dec. 11, 2020 article by Tubefilter, a news website covering online content creators.

The completed puzzle reveals a QR code revealing the cash prize.

Sure, everyone wins something, but it’s a big scam when you break it down.

According to a Dec. 10, 2020 Insider article, “only 651 out of 100,151 (.007%) of the prizes available would allow you to actually gain money by participating.”

The puzzle itself costs \$30 and doesn’t have a reference photo to help users put it together.

With the likelihood of you losing money on the initial purchase and accounting for the amount of time spent on the puzzle, the saying “you can either win or win” found on the official Hundred Thousand Dollar Puzzle website is a slap in the face.

I would know because I’ll shamelessly admit I was one of the people who fell for the gag.

My family and I spent a whole month working on the puzzle. Not only did my mom and dad spend hours trying to put it together, but we also recruited family members to help us.

It was a monumental moment when we finally



ILLUSTRATION BY AUDREY TSENG

I was too obsessed with the glitz and glam to realize I was getting scammed.

completed the puzzle, but found we only won 25 cents. When we all saw our prize, it was a laughable moment because we realized how ridiculous it all was.

The amount of time and money we lost because of the puzzle did not feel like a win.

However, this wasn’t the

first time I fell for a celebrity marketing scam.

During my time as a ‘Harmonizer,’ I committed hard to the Fifth Harmony fanbase. It got to the point where I dedicated time to memorize their choreography and even dropped hundreds of dollars on merchandise.

In 2015 I spent \$140 on a Fifth Harmony bundle which included personalized letters and merchandise from each of the group members, as seen in a fan’s screenshots from a 2015 Twitter post.

Yes, I know it was ridiculous, but I was 14 at the time and it just made sense.

I waited months for the bundle to arrive, but I was filled with utter disappointment when it finally did.

The quality of the merchandise was terrible. The “personalized” letters

were photocopies distributed to everyone who purchased the bundle. I ended up throwing half of it away as soon as I got it.

Looking back at my scam experiences, I can now see how celebrities take advantage of their fans.

Next time, I would think twice before deciding to drop money on products pedaled by famous people looking to make a quick buck.

Follow Jacqueline on Twitter
@Jacqueline_v20

Exploring spirituality advances a higher sense of self



Jovanna Olivares
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The coronavirus pandemic has allowed some to explore their faith outside of routine practice or pressure of attending religious institutions for worship.

Religious institutions shouldn’t control how someone practices spirituality outside a place of worship. Students don’t need to be a member of organized religion to have a fruitful and meaningful spiritual life.

With that in mind, it’s difficult learning to balance my spirituality with my religion without feeling conflicted.

Religion often shames its followers for questioning their faith, while spirituality encourages individual ability to explore not only people’s preferred religion but their significance in the universe.

You can be spiritual in your daily life, whether that means self-reflection or meditating while doing activities including watering plants, watching the sunset or even drinking a cup of coffee.

“Practicing mindfulness and meditating has been really helpful over the course of the pandemic,” said Lauryn Carter, an applied nutrition and food sciences junior in a phone interview. “Sometimes I just play music and drift off to analyze life.”

My younger years consisted of sitting on a church bench most Sundays, but when the pandemic began the significant shift

threw a wrench in my routine. A year later, I have come to better understand the essence of my personal belief system balanced between religion and spirituality.

Andrea Chavez, a justice studies junior, has done tarot card readings over FaceTime for my household multiple times during the pandemic.

“I started getting into astrology and tarot and all that kind of stuff and I thought it was really interesting at the beginning of middle school,” Chavez said. “My family has a history of curanderos, but because of the church, it was kind of shut down.”

Curanderos are healers who use folk remedies that blend religious beliefs, faith and prayer with the use of herbs, massage and other traditional methods of healing, according to Encyclopedia.com.

Curanderismo, or the practice used by cuaderos, is also said to be the result of Spanish colonization and the imposition of Catholic rituals such as prayer, combined with native folk medicine using herbs and oils, according to the American Cancer Society.

“The healing properties are oils, herbs [and] natural things from the ground,” Chavez said. “Then most of these spells are really just manifestations, what you speak into the universe does have a really big impact.”

She was inspired and



ILLUSTRATION BY DAISHA SHERMAN

encouraged to explore her spirituality by a gifted curandera who became her close friend after she helped her family through difficult times.

People must overcome biases and personal fears about spiritual healing practices.

A 2010 study from the Journal of Community Health Nursing found Western therapists often misdiagnose clients who practice Indigenous healing systems, such as curanderismo.

Society tends to demonize those who practice culturally influenced spiritual customs. Yet large corporations have ironically capitalized and continuously appropriated ancient practices and sacred objects.

Indigenous people were sentenced to death for sage burning, a spiritual cleansing process. It was illegal for Native Americans to use sage until the American Indian

You can be spiritual in your daily life whether that means self-reflection or meditating while doing activities including watering plants, watching the sunset or even drinking a cup of coffee.

Religious Freedom Act of 1978 was established, said Bianca Millar, a Huron-Wendat Nation member in a Nov. 13, 2019 Fashionista article.

Now huge companies including Urban Outfitters profit from selling kits with culturally significant objects such as white sage and Palo Santo wood sticks to people without knowledge of their importance.

Spirituality holds

different meanings to different people, but it’s important to be mindful of respecting others by not only acknowledging their beliefs, but also not reinventing deeply-rooted cultural practices into trendy waves.

The difference between religion and spirituality is not about what you believe, but your attitude toward life and how you treat the Earth.

Intentions are powerful and exerting positive energy

through affirmations and manifestation is effective in developing a higher sense of self.

“I don’t think people realize the power everyone has and how simply speaking things into existence and exerting good energy will help you get through,” Chavez said.

Throughout the pandemic, I’ve experienced a deeper understanding of the way I practice religion influenced by cultural and spiritual beliefs originating from curanderismo.

Going to church every week doesn’t make you a good person and neither does discrediting spiritual practices. What matters is how you treat others and your surroundings.

Follow Jovanna on Twitter
@joo_zunigaa

Athletics continues no-fans policy

By Christina Casillas
STAFF WRITER

During a typical season collegiate athletes could look at the stands and see the faces of their fellow students, friends and family cheering them on as they compete.

Bleachers that teemed with crowds pre-pandemic will now remain occupied by cardboard cutouts of spectators.

San Jose State athletics officials continue a no-fans policy for the remainder of spring semester to prevent spreading the coronavirus.

Men’s soccer midfielder Finlay Wood said it’s difficult without spectators, but an audience isn’t crucial for the team to play.

“I think as a team, [spectators are] not something we absolutely rely on,” Wood said. “I think it’s just the benefit of playing the game.”

He also said reasons for barring fans during the pandemic outweigh the reason to have patrons lining the stands.

“I didn’t expect spectators to be [at soccer matches],” Wood said. “With everything going on, of course there’s a lot more seriousness going on than the decisions as to whether spectators should be at sports games or not in the world.”

Women’s water polo driver Sierra Painter said

competing in front of an audience isn’t much different from competing without an audience.

She acknowledged the circumstances could be much more drastic, especially because the team experienced a shortened 2020 season.

While Painter used the season to redshirt because of an injury, meaning she didn’t compete in meets, the team had the last 10 season meets canceled because of the pandemic.

“Just having our season be cut last year, it really helped put it into perspective,” Painter said. “Playing with no spectators is better than not playing at all.”

Jada Mazury, gymnastics all-around competitor, said a lack of spectators makes meets feel more like practices, but the cardboard cutouts offer a sense of familiarity.

“[Cardboard cutouts] gave a little bit of the same energy that people are watching you and they’re supporting you without them actually being there, so I liked it,” Mazury said. “It was just a little weird because they were silent, but it was nice to have the familiar faces in the audience.”

Painter said while the water polo team was accustomed to fewer spectators at home meets, because the team played at West Valley College in Saratoga, the support from other athletes was greatly missed.

“Our men’s team comes

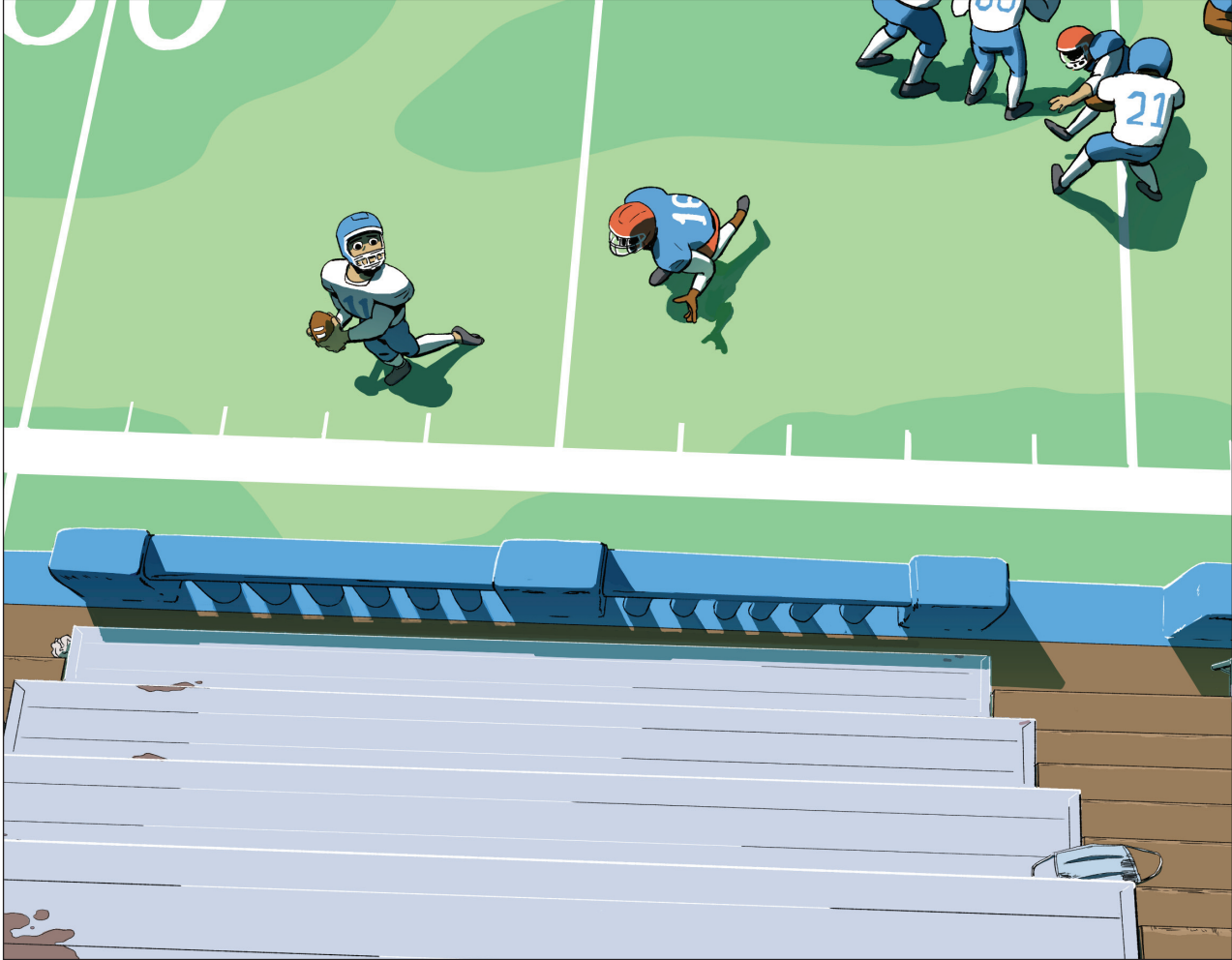


ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN JOHNSON

to our games and they bring great, great energy and it really helps us gain momentum,” Painter said.

Because of the circumstances, many student-athletes said the support they need comes from their teammates and coaches.

“Personally, I don’t really focus on anything else other than the game when I’m playing,” Wood said. “The only encouragement and support I need verbally, like I really need, is from my teammates

“

Just having our season be cut last year, it really helped put it into perspective. Playing with no spectators is better than not playing at all.



Sierra Painter
women’s water polo driver

and from our coaches throughout the game.”

While the possibility of hosting fans at home sporting events next year remains uncertain, Mazury said she and her teammates have grown from the experience of playing

during a pandemic.

“We learned how to come together, we learned how to support each other, we learned what we can do to be supportive without necessarily physically touching each other, physically high-fiving,” Mazury said. “We had to learn different ways to help each other.”

Follow Christina
on Twitter
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Spartans seniors celebrate victory in final home match

By Madilynne Medina
STAFF WRITER

The San Jose State women’s soccer team nailed an Easter Sunday 1-0 victory against the University of Nevada, Reno in its final home match of the season.

The triumphant event was also a celebration of two senior players’ final home game, Lauola Amanoni and Bella Bowers.

Bowers said stakes were high because Sunday games are always physically difficult, but going into this game was especially emotional because it was her senior day.

“Not every girl has been with me this whole journey, but still being able to feel that love and appreciation before the game was my motivation,” Bowers said.

Sunday’s win was part of a two-game weekend for the team that continued its victorious streak after winning the previous match against Boise State 1-0 on Friday.

The match was an excellent representation of the Spartans’ commendable defense, blocking all 6 of the Wolf Pack’s attempted shots.

Junior goalie Zoe Aguirre was at ease for a considerable portion of the game because of the success defensive players had in blocking Reno’s attacks.

A large portion of the first half consisted of a



PHOTO COURTESY OF SJSU ATHLETICS

Midfielder Cynthia Flores (middle) scored the Spartans’ only goal Sunday on an assist by forward Evan House (right).

back-and-forth period of fouls, with 6 against the Wolf Pack and 9 against the Spartans before the first point of the match.

Numerous shots were attempted by both teams before the first goal was secured by the Spartans 37 minutes into the match.

Both Reno and SJSU played competitively before the goal was scored, with 3 shots on goal attempted on both sides.

The winning goal was dynamically assisted by freshman Evan House and senior Bella Bowers, which was then completed by midfielder freshman

“

Not every girl has been with me this whole journey, but still being able to feel that love and appreciation before the game was my motivation.



Bella Bowers
women’s soccer midfielder

Cynthia Flores in a graceful attack.

It was Flores’ first goal in her collegiate career.

In a post-game interview posted on the Twitter account for SJSU women’s soccer, head coach Lauren Hanson said Flores’ goal

was a reflection of the success the team has been building.

“That is just a preview of what we can do in the attack,” Hanson said in the interview. “It’s part of developing a rhythm and it’s been a process of trying to develop that.

You’ve seen it in spurts, but it’s starting to come together even more so throughout the season.”

Although the match’s second period didn’t consist of any scores, both teams continued to play conscientiously.

Aguirre notably blocked an attempted shot by Reno’s Luz Arreaga in minute 74, saving SJSU from a tied game.

Freshmen players House and Flores were standout athletes in Sunday’s game, leading several shots and demonstrating extreme potential for the young team’s future.

Throughout the game,

numerous substitutions from the bench were also key components to the team’s victory.

Bowers said the team has consistently had a deep bench throughout the season, which has made a huge impact on SJSU’s performance as a collective.

She added that the team had at least seven people come off the bench at one time.

When referring to the substituted players Bowers said, “the level of playing never went down, if anything it went up.”

The game ended with the Spartans at an advantage with 10 shot attempts, compared to the Wolf Pack’s 6 attempts.

SJSU is scheduled to play its last game of the season on Saturday at Fresno State with kick off at 11 a.m.

Although the Spartans celebrated an outstanding weekend of victories, Bowers explained the team’s motto for the last game is “don’t be complicit” because there is always room for improvement.

UPCOMING GAME

SJSU at Fresno State
April 10 @ 11 a.m.

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